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Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 2–5 October 2018
Item 4 of the provisional agenda**
Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Colombo from 24 to 27 October 2016, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues identified below.

2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, was forwarded to the Governments represented at that Meeting. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations was dispatched on 5 April 2018, with a deadline for replies set at 9 July 2018.

3. The present note was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. As at 27 July 2018, replies had been received from the Governments of Georgia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Member States that have not provided responses for inclusion in the present report or Member States whose responses have not been included because they were received after that date may wish to brief the Meeting on the implementation of recommendations under the corresponding agenda item.

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.
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II. Responses from Member States to the questionnaire

Issue 1. New developments in national and regional responses to the evolving threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances

Recommendation (a)

Governments should consider reviewing current drug control policies and frameworks to reflect the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.

4. Georgia reported that its Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for Combating Drug Abuse had adopted the National Strategy for Combating Drug Abuse and its respective Action Plan for the period 2016–2018. Georgia stated that the Action Plan 2016–2018 was aimed at incorporating all drug abuse-related recommendations made by international organizations, international experts, the Public Defender's Office of Georgia and local non-governmental organizations. The Strategy and Action Plan were based on four pillars (prevention and education, demand and harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation, and supply reduction) and were aimed at the integration of a human rights-based approach into drug control efforts. Furthermore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs remained committed to developing proactive policing and to changing from a reactive policing model to an intelligence-led one, thereby creating a unified approach to drug control and crime analysis.

5. Japan reported that its fourth Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy (2013) included five objectives, namely: (a) prevention; (b) treatment and social reintegration of drug users and prevention of relapse; (c) eradication of illicit drug trafficking; (d) prevention of drug smuggling at the border; and (e) international cooperation. The Government of Japan reviewed the corresponding action taken every year. Japan reported that, in 2017, 14,745 offenders were arrested for drug-related crimes, 10,284 offenders for stimulant-related crimes and 726 offenders for new psychoactive substance-related crimes. The programme entitled "Emergency Measures to Eliminate Dangerous Drug Abuse", introduced in 2014, had dramatically reduced the number of crimes related to new psychoactive substances.

6. Malaysia reported that it had reviewed its National Drug Policy (1996) and adopted an updated, inclusive and comprehensive policy in 2017, based on best practices from Australia, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Among the 10 main challenges identified at that time were new psychoactive substances, treatment and rehabilitation for users of amphetamine-type stimulants, and the reintegration of recovering drug users. The policy prioritized collaborative strategies implemented by various Government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

7. Myanmar considered its new drug control policy (February 2018) to be in compliance with the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. The policy included components on supply reduction and alternative development, demand reduction and harm reduction, international cooperation, and research and analysis, and used a human rights-based approach, taking into account in particular the needs of women and children.

8. New Zealand referred to its Psychoactive Substances Act (2013), which regulated the availability of psychoactive substances to protect the health of, and minimize harm to, individuals who use psychoactive substances. New Zealand explained that, at the time of reporting, the Act was under review, with a view to amending it to address the drug landscape of 2018 and beyond.

9. Pakistan reported that its National Anti-Narcotics Policy (2010) was being reviewed at the time of reporting. It was in the process of finalization to meet new

challenges and international obligations, in line with the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.

10. The Russian Federation reported that its Ministry of the Interior was paying particular attention to the prevention of drug use. On 4 December 2017, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hosted an international parliamentary conference on the theme "Parliamentarians against drugs", which included panel discussions on, inter alia, treatment and rehabilitation. The Russian Federation further reported that, in 2017, the list of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors subject to control in the Russian Federation had been amended four times. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Interior, as the competent authority, carried out the review and preparation of advance notifications concerning the export of precursors (pre-export notifications) received from and sent to the competent authorities of foreign countries via the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system.

11. Singapore reported that, in 2017 and 2018, it had listed a total of 26 new psychoactive substances as class A controlled drugs in the First Schedule to the Misuse of Drugs Act of Singapore, and had also listed 5 new psychoactive substances in the Fifth Schedule to the same Act.

12. According to the reply of Sri Lanka, necessary steps were taken by the country's National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to amend the Poison, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, the Conventions against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Drug Dependent Persons (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act.

13. Turkey reported that no action had yet been taken in that regard.

Recommendation (b)

Governments should encourage the sharing of information and cooperation relating to technical support between national forensic laboratories responsible for the profiling of illicit drugs, particularly regarding the identification of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances.

14. Georgia reported that its State Regulation Agency for Medical Activities of the Ministry of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs granted permissions for the importation of reference standards by the Proficiency Testing Programme of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes Drugs Working Group.

15. Japan reported that the forensic chemists working in several laboratories belonging to different ministries shared information on and discussed new tools and ways of countering illicit drugs at an annual intergovernmental meeting, thereby improving their analytical techniques and accuracy.

16. According to the reply of Malaysia, the Department of Chemistry, in particular its Narcotics Division, was equipped with instruments for routine analysis, drug profiling and analysis of new psychoactive substances, and its technical staff had been trained. Information drawn from case work and research was shared within the Asian Forensic Sciences Network, as well as with UNODC through the annual report questionnaire.

17. Myanmar reported that it had enhanced its forensic laboratories by providing six gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer machines for qualitative and quantitative analysis of illicit drugs. The Chemical Examination Department cooperated and shared information with its partner institution in Thailand. Myanmar also took part in the UNODC international collaborative exercises to identify unknown seized materials. The Government further reported that it frequently shared information and drug samples with counterpart agencies, including in Thailand and Australia.

18. New Zealand reported that, in May 2015, the National Drug Intelligence Bureau had bid on a project for a pilot wastewater drug testing programme to quantify drug

use and provide objective insight into patterns of drug use. The Bureau had partnered with the Institute of Environmental Science and Research, which is the country's national forensic laboratory to formulate and analyse domestic drug consumption in wastewater, and had cooperated with forensic laboratories in Australia on a methamphetamine signature programme.

19. Pakistan reported that it had seven national laboratories working on the profiling of illicit drugs, in particular regarding the identification of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances, in order to facilitate the timely exchange of data between domestic law enforcement agencies.

20. The Russian Federation reported that the revision of Inter-agency Order No. 535/1143/679/2664 of 27 December 2012 of the Federal Drug Control Service, the Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Security Service and the Federal Customs Service was in its final stage.

21. Singapore stated that its forensic laboratories participated in many international sessions to share technical information on the analysis of new psychoactive substances. In September 2017, together with the Asian Forensic Sciences Network, Singapore organized the ninth annual meeting and symposium of the Network.

22. Sri Lanka reported that two proposals had been submitted to enhance bilateral partnerships with Oman and Malaysia to facilitate the exchange of, inter alia, scientific and forensic work programmes, research studies and laboratory training programmes. The establishment of bilateral networks of drug testing laboratories for the sharing of scientific information and intelligence was also envisaged. In addition, Sri Lanka aimed at the implementation of joint programmes on science, technology and innovation in the field of drug control with partner institutions.

23. Turkey reported that no action had yet been taken in that regard.

Recommendation (c)

In their efforts to counter drug trafficking, Governments should encourage their authorities to make use of the tools and services available through UNODC, such as the UNODC Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances, which is a tool for information collection and sharing, the annual report questionnaire, the PEN Online system and the Project Ion Incident Communication System, which was developed by the International Narcotics Control Board.

24. Georgia reported that the Government invoked subparagraph 10 (a) of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and used the PEN Online system to oversee the country's legitimate international trade of precursors. Georgia also participated in Project Ion and the Project Ion Incident Communication System (IONICS). Georgia also prepared the annual report questionnaire every year.

25. According to the reply of Japan, new psychoactive substances had been regulated since 2007. Japan had used the information from the Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances and IONICS to report registered substances.

26. Malaysia reiterated its support for the use of systems such as PEN Online, the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and IONICS. It had used PEN Online, which was considered helpful and quick in facilitating bilateral communication, and had received alerts through IONICS. Malaysia also responded to the annual report questionnaire and provided information to the Early Warning Advisory through the Illicit Drugs Working Group of the Asian Forensic Sciences Network.

27. Myanmar reported that it used the above-mentioned tools.

28. New Zealand stated that it regularly used many of the tools available, such as the annual report questionnaire, PEN Online, Project Ion and PICS.

29. Pakistan reported that it made full use of PEN Online and PICS, using an authenticated system of monitoring and checking.

30. The Russian Federation reported that the Ministry of the Interior prepared the advance notifications concerning the export of precursors received and sent via the PEN Online system. It also participated in the system for identifying and reporting new psychoactive substances as part of Project Ion.

31. Singapore reported that it used PEN Online and IONICS.

32. Sri Lanka reported that it used PEN Online and the annual report questionnaire.

33. Turkey reported that the Early Warning Systems Working Group continued its activities within the Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Recommendation (d)

Governments should, as a matter of urgency, encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to institutionalize their exchanges of operational intelligence through the use of existing regional cooperation platforms and shared protocols so as to counter the illicit actions of drug traffickers.

34. Georgia reported on operational activities undertaken with foreign counterparts by Georgian police attachés, among others. A specialized unit of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation was established in the Central Criminal Police Department in 2017, handling cooperation on drug trafficking and other issues. It was also reported that, in 2017, Georgia signed international law enforcement cooperation agreements with China, Germany, Greece (not in force) and Sweden.

35. The drug law enforcement authorities of Japan, namely, the police, customs authorities, the coast guard and narcotics control authorities, were reported to cooperate frequently with their counterparts in investigating drug-related crimes and exchanged relevant information at regional meetings. An intergovernmental personnel exchange system was also mentioned.

36. Malaysia reported that the sharing of information and intelligence between its law enforcement agencies and international agencies had led to numerous successes in the fight against international drug trafficking syndicates. With regard to its activities at the regional level, Malaysia referred to its participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Airport Interdiction Task Force.

37. Myanmar referred to the membership of its national law enforcement agency in the Safe Mekong Operation Project, the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control and other regional and bilateral cooperation platforms, such as the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters, the ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime.

38. New Zealand reported that the National Organized Crime Group unit within the New Zealand Police was at the forefront of joint agency investigatory cases in New Zealand and across borders. As an example, it mentioned operation Heracles/Vamoose, a joint police and customs operation that, with the aid of international law enforcement agencies, had led to the country's largest seizure of cocaine.

39. Pakistan reported having worked with the drug liaison officers of the United States of America and the United Kingdom in the framework of memorandums of understanding. Regional cooperation platforms such as a joint planning cell and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Drug Offences Monitoring Desk were mentioned. Pakistan expressed the need to further institutionalize the exchange of information and establish active connections between regional forums for effective operational cooperation.

40. The Russian Federation referred to Order No. 970 of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation (approved on 27 December 2017).

41. Singapore reported that it cooperated on a regular basis with foreign law enforcement agencies in Malaysia and Thailand through the exchange of information and intelligence and joint investigations. Furthermore, Singapore referred to joint training courses and cooperation through regional platforms such as the ASEAN

Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters, the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle, the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters. Singapore had also signed memorandums of understanding on cooperation on drug issues with India and Australia.

42. Sri Lanka reported that its Police Narcotics Bureau extended cooperation to foreign agencies, which had led to successful investigations. Under the Bureau, a SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk had been established.

43. Turkey reported that there were 142 police liaison officers from 47 different countries posted in Turkey, and 14 liaison officers from Turkey posted in 15 different countries.

Issue 2. Measures to ensure comprehensive and balanced efforts at the national level to reduce drug demand

Recommendation (a)

Governments are encouraged to adopt a comprehensive, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach to the drug problem.

44. Georgia indicated that its Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for Combating Drug Abuse was mandated to ensure a balanced, integrated and human rights-based approach. The Government had initiated reform efforts on the following topics: (a) distinguishing criminal liability for drug possession and distribution; (b) balancing law-enforcement and medical-social measures and abolishing the obligation of ambulance personnel to inform the police about overdose cases; (c) adopting the Law on New Psychoactive Substances, using a comprehensive and balanced approach; (d) adopting soft administrative sanctions for, inter alia, the possession, purchase and use of a small amount of marijuana (5 grams) or cannabis (10 grams), and abolishing deprivation of liberty for the possession, purchase and use of defined amounts of marijuana and cannabis. The legislative amendments were approved by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Council on 27 March 2018 and were to be submitted to the Government and the Parliament shortly thereafter. Regarding data collection and analysis, authorities of Georgia cooperated closely with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). A National Drug Situation Monitoring Centre was being established, which would operate under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Council and would have approximately 21 staff members.

45. Japan reported that it not only ensured law enforcement, but promoted a variety of measures, such as education, awareness-raising, treatment and rehabilitation, based on the fourth Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy. The Government encouraged the development of balanced strategies by prefectural authorities and shared information on prevention measures aimed at youth. Japan reported on research that had shown that only 1 per cent of the population of Japan had abused drugs over their entire lifetime.

46. Malaysia stated that its National Drug Policy was comprehensive, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary. It described five lines of action: (a) preventive education; (b) treatment and rehabilitation; (c) enforcement; (d) harm reduction; and (e) international cooperation. Community involvement had been enhanced by promoting and advocating empowerment strategies across the country through registered treatment and rehabilitation centres, anti-drug volunteers, community leaders and the community at large.

47. Myanmar reported that it had adopted, as part of its new national drug control policy, a demand and harm reduction policy that was linked to public health and development-led approaches.

48. New Zealand reported that it adhered to the National Drug Policy 2015–2020.

49. Pakistan stressed that its efforts were based on the three strategic pillars highlighted in the Anti-Narcotics Policy 2010, namely, drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction and international cooperation. International cooperation was realized in the framework of the United Nations conventions, SAARC and bilateral agreements, including memorandums of understanding on drug control with 33 countries and extradition treaties with 29 countries.

50. The Russian Federation reported that a set of measures to implement the State Anti-Drug Policy Strategy for the period up to 2020 was at the final stage of approval.

51. Singapore indicated that it had adopted a multipronged approach to the drug problem, comprising: (a) enforcement against drug supply activities; (b) rehabilitation of drug abusers through a mandatory treatment and rehabilitation regime; (c) preventive drug education on the harms posed to the community by drugs, especially youth, including through social media; (d) awareness-raising through nationwide events; and (e) targeted rehabilitation and aftercare efforts to help drug abusers reintegrate into society.

52. Sri Lanka reported that the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board took action on its three main strategies of supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction, in cooperation with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations. A total of 34 stakeholder institutions were engaged in drug law enforcement, prevention, and treatment and rehabilitation efforts.

53. According to the reply of Turkey, a balanced approach had been adopted that considered both drug addiction and drug trafficking, and various institutions had been designated to deal with the drug problem from both angles.

Recommendation (b)

Governments are encouraged to ensure a balanced distribution of resources with a view to enabling the adequate implementation of their supply and demand reduction policies.

54. Georgia indicated that its demand reduction policy was implemented through preventive and educational programmes, substitution programmes, abstinence-oriented treatment programmes and social interventions focusing on minimizing the factors contributing to drug abuse, such as unemployment and domestic violence. The State-funded treatment programme had components on in-patient detoxification and primary rehabilitation, replacement therapy, pharmaceutical alternatives and psychosocial rehabilitation. In 2017, 6,500 persons had benefited from the programme. As at May 2018, 9,172 persons had received comprehensive treatment from the opioid substitution programme and 435 persons were involved in the stationary detoxification programme. Supply reduction was the main responsibility of 120 officers of the Central Criminal Police Department, who participated in various inter-agency and international projects.

55. In reference to its supply reduction measures, Japan indicated that, in 2017, 14,745 offenders had been arrested for alleged drug-related crimes, and approximately 1.1 tons of methamphetamine had been seized. A total of 4,796 persons suspected to be associated with the crime syndicate "Yakuza" had been arrested in 2017. In regard to demand reduction, the Reoffending Prevention Promotion Plan had been adopted in 2017, on the basis of the Act for the Prevention of Reoffending, which had entered into force in 2016. Under that plan, the Government of Japan cooperated closely with prefectural and regional authorities to reintegrate drug addicts into society.

56. Malaysia reported that the implementing agencies of the National Drug Policy were, among others, the police, the customs authority, the National Anti-Drugs Agency, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The distribution of resources was reviewed from time to time in accordance with the current needs and the financial ability of the Government, upon

the request of the agencies or through the National Council on Addressing Illicit Drugs.

57. According to the reply submitted by Myanmar, the Government had increased its financial investment in the health sector to ensure the improvement of medical services, including drug treatment, medical research and HIV prevention and treatment. Law enforcement and development agencies had their own budgets. The revised drug law included the establishment of a fund to use for both supply and demand reduction.

58. New Zealand mentioned that, under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Corrections could bid for funding for drug treatment projects, while the police and the Customs Service could bid for funding for law enforcement initiatives. The Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs assessed all related bids from Government agencies and made recommendations.

59. Pakistan reported that the Government proportionately allocated its resources in accordance with its drug control strategies and following a threat analysis. Supply reduction efforts had been stepped up, owing to the proximity of Pakistan to Afghanistan, which had experienced an unprecedented and massive increase in drug cultivation and production in 2017. In terms of demand reduction, Pakistan reported that it had undertaken awareness-raising programmes, media campaigns and other activities under a project entitled "Community participation in drug demand reduction" and a youth ambassador programme aimed at awareness-raising. Furthermore, model treatment and rehabilitation centres were in operation in three cities.

60. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had yet been taken in that regard.

61. Singapore reported that it had a balanced distribution of resources for implementing demand and supply reduction policies. Resources were allocated to reduce drug supply through intelligence and enforcement operations and investigations, and to reduce drug demand through prevention efforts and supervision.

62. Sri Lanka reported that the Government facilitated drug prevention campaigns at the national level, and at the same time was strengthening its law enforcement activities. A special task force on drug prevention had been established to coordinate drug prevention activities. Law enforcement mechanisms were being strengthened through resource allocation, scientific training and the adoption of new technologies.

63. Turkey stated that it had adopted a balanced approach to drug supply and demand reduction activities in its national policies and strategies.

Recommendation (c)

Governments are encouraged, where appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to consider alternatives to conviction or punishment, such as treatment, education, rehabilitation and social reintegration.

64. Georgia reported that its State-funded treatment programme provided detoxification treatment to about 1,000 patients per year, in both in-patient and out-patient contexts, as well as opioid substitution treatment with methadone and buprenorphine, which recently had also been combined with measures for psychosocial rehabilitation. A substitution therapy programme for opioid-dependent inmates in penitentiary institutions had been implemented within the penitentiary system pursuant to a joint order of the Ministers of Corrections and Health Care. It had been fully integrated into the State-funded treatment programme. Georgia also carried out a social enterprises project in close cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and the Government of Switzerland that offered a long-term work rehabilitation programme to former substance abusers and persons at high risk of substance abuse. Over the course of the project, 98 beneficiaries (83 male and 15 female) had successfully completed the work rehabilitation programme cycle.

65. Japan reported that persons who used illicit drugs were punished; however, they were provided with educational programmes and medical services in the correctional institutions. The Ministry of Justice considered those measures to be effective in the prevention of reoffending, but was also considering measures that foreign countries implemented as alternatives to imprisonment.

66. Malaysia reported that, since the enactment of the Drug Dependants (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act in 1983, persons affected by substance use disorders were being referred to treatment programmes. In 2010, a voluntary treatment programme had been introduced.

67. According to the reply of Myanmar, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law had been revised in February 2018, thereby decriminalizing drug use with a view to improving the accessibility of treatment for drug users as an alternative to jail sentences. The policy was aimed at allowing drug users to receive treatment and other social services voluntarily.

68. New Zealand reported that, in mid-2017, the pilot of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court had been extended for another three years. The Court was designed to supervise offenders whose offending is driven by their dependency on alcohol or other drugs by providing judicial oversight of their engagement with treatment programmes and rehabilitation support services before they are sentenced. The desired outcomes of the Court pilot were to reduce reoffending and imprisonment, reduce drug and alcohol consumption and dependency, make a positive impact on the health and well-being of offenders and be cost-effective.

69. Pakistan stated that alternatives to conviction or punishment were being implemented. The Control of Narcotic Substances Act of 1997 provided for the registration, treatment, detoxification, de-addiction, education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social integration of addicts, and the National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse financed treatment and rehabilitation efforts. At the national level, there were approximately 96 treatment facilities and 33 drop-in centres run by the Government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. With regard to drug smugglers and suppliers, however, Pakistan did not foresee any alternatives to punishment, as it considered punishment to be the most appropriate option.

70. The Russian Federation stated that its Criminal Code provided for deferral of punishment for drug addicts, for example, for a first-time offender, if that person was recognized as a drug addict and had expressed the wish to voluntarily undergo drug addiction treatment and medical and social rehabilitation, until such treatment and rehabilitation ended, but for no longer than five years. Once the drug addiction treatment and medical and social rehabilitation had been successfully completed and after confirmation that the person had remained in remission for no less than two years after completing the treatment, the court released the person. The Russian Federation also referred to the note accompanying article 6.9 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation, which foresaw that a person voluntarily seeking treatment from a medical institution for the abuse of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, without doing so on the order of a doctor, was exempt from administrative liability for an offence. A person duly recognized as a drug addict could, subject to his or her consent, be referred for medical and/or social rehabilitation, and thus could be absolved of administrative liability for offences related to the use of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

71. Singapore reported that first- and second-time drug abusers were referred to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre as an alternative to imprisonment. Young people assessed to be at low risk of reoffending were placed in the Youth Enhanced Supervision Scheme, a structured rehabilitation programme aimed at helping young first-time drug abusers reintegrate into society. Under the programme, the young drug abusers received counselling and casework components delivered by social service agencies, in addition to periodically reporting for urine tests. As part of the programme, families of the young drug abusers were engaged, as strong family support was considered integral to rehabilitation and integration.

72. Sri Lanka reported that, in accordance with the Act on Drug Dependent Persons (Treatment and Rehabilitation), the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation was conducting drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes in cooperation with non-governmental organizations for drug-related offenders referred by the criminal justice system. The residential treatment capacity in Sri Lanka was planned to be expanded.

73. Turkey reported that the use, possession and acceptance of drugs were considered to be crimes, but instead of punishment for those crimes, probation measures had been implemented.

Issue 3. Best practices in preventing and countering drug-related money-laundering and illicit financial flows, and measures to improve international cooperation in that regard

Recommendation (a)

Governments are encouraged to engage in international, regional and subregional cooperation as an effective measure against money-laundering.

74. Georgia reported that its Government had established close cooperation with the law enforcement authorities of the member States of the European Union and other States, in order to prevent risks related to money-laundering. Authorities were intensively engaged in international, regional and subregional network meetings and workshops, which was considered an effective measure for exchanging practical and operational information on drug-related and money-laundering issues.

75. Japan reported that it cooperated with international partners through the Financial Action Task Force, the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering and its financial intelligence unit, a member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. Japan also cooperated with other countries on a bilateral basis.

76. Malaysia referred to its membership in the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering and the Egmont Group, as well as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime.

77. Myanmar noted that it was a State party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Furthermore, Myanmar referred to its membership in the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering, and reported that its Financial Intelligence Unit had signed memorandums of understanding with 13 counterparts in other countries.

78. New Zealand reported that it was a member of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering. Its Financial Intelligence Unit was a member of the Egmont Group and actively made a practice of sending and receiving relevant financial information via the Egmont Secure Web or by means of the police liaison network. The Financial Intelligence Unit and police staff were involved in mutual evaluations of other countries by the Financial Action Task Force, and the Ministry of Justice was leading preparations for the country's own evaluation in 2020.

79. Pakistan reported that, in accordance with the provisions of its Control of Narcotic Substances Act, letters of request were regularly sent to different States in relation to drug-related assets and money-laundering, whenever information on the involvement or conviction of a citizen of Pakistan was available. In the same way, letters of request received from foreign States were responded to. The country's financial intelligence unit had applied for membership in the Egmont Group.

80. The Russian Federation reported that a draft federal law was being prepared to amend certain legislation on countering the financing of terrorism and other unlawful acts, which addressed, inter alia, the prevention of the use of bank accounts (deposits) and electronic means of payment for the purpose of drug trafficking.

81. Singapore reported that it had concluded an agreement with the United States to facilitate drug law enforcement cooperation between both countries, specifically in the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking and money-laundering offences. The country's Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office shared information with foreign financial intelligence units under the auspices of cooperation agreements (memorandums of understanding or letters of undertaking). The Office had signed more than 40 such agreements. Singapore was also an active member of various groups such as the Financial Action Task Force and the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (as a founding member), as well as the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and ASEANAPOL. Its financial intelligence unit was a member of the Egmont Group.

82. Sri Lanka reported that its Prevention of Money Laundering Act had been amended and its measures were being implemented in cooperation with regional organizations.

83. Turkey reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

Recommendation (b)

Governments are encouraged to enact or amend their legislation so that it complies with international standards and relevant conventions on combating the financing of the illicit drug trade.

84. Georgia considered that its legislative framework related to combating the financing of the illicit drug trade was in compliance with the standards contained in international instruments and addressed all current challenges.

85. Japan reported that it had taken the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force into consideration and had recently amended the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds, including by enhancing the strict verification of correspondent contracts upon signing, expanding the obligation of private business operators to develop their anti-money-laundering structure and maintaining a dedicated list of cryptocurrency exchange traders.

86. Malaysia reported that it had enacted its money-laundering legislation in 2001 and had amended it repeatedly since then. The police had a specific office for the forfeiture of property, which worked closely with the Central Bank of Malaysia to detect the illicit money flows of drug syndicates. Under the Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988, alleged drug syndicate members were investigated and the proceeds of drug trafficking could be confiscated.

87. Myanmar reported that, in its legal system, it complied with international standards through its laws and regulations on money-laundering and counter-terrorism.

88. New Zealand reported that its money-laundering legislation of 2009 provided the basis for the reporting of financial information to the financial intelligence unit. Reporting by professional facilitators had recently been included. Continuous revision of best practice, and action to implement it, was under way. By way of example, the police had contributed to a project led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on a beneficial ownership register for New Zealand, which included companies and partnerships on the basis of information from the police.

89. Pakistan considered that its Control of Narcotic Substances Act of 1997 complied with international standards, including with regard to financial investigations and the confiscation of proceeds of crime. The offences criminalized under the Act were considered predicate offences to money-laundering, and the Anti-Narcotics Force was empowered to investigate and prosecute money-laundering offences.

90. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

91. Singapore noted that its money-laundering legislation criminalized the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and other serious offences and enabled authorities to trace, freeze and confiscate the assets of convicted drug traffickers. It also contained a reporting requirement that required a person who knew or had reasonable grounds to suspect that any property might be connected to a criminal activity to file a suspicious transaction report. Furthermore, the organized crime legislation of 2016 criminalized involvement in organized crime activities, provided for courts to issue preventive orders to constrain the activities of organized criminal groups and included a civil confiscation regime that targeted the benefits derived from organized crime, including those from drug trafficking. Taken together, those provisions aimed to curtail and dismantle criminal groups and deprive them of their ill-gotten gains. Singapore indicated that the legislation was reviewed periodically to ensure that it remained relevant and complied with the international standards and anti-money-laundering provisions of the relevant international conventions.

92. Sri Lanka indicated that its relevant legislation in that regard included the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, No. 05 of 2006, and the Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, No. 40 of 2011.

Recommendation (c)

Governments should ensure that the anti-corruption measures that they have put in place to maintain the integrity of their financial investigation units are regularly revised so that they are effective and support the development of an appropriate organizational culture.

93. Georgia considered its legal and institutional framework against corruption to be adequate. The Anti-Corruption Council had approved, and the Government had adopted, the new Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan in September 2017.

94. Japan reported that the employees of the Japan Financial Intelligence Centre were public employees, and as such, if they committed acts of corruption, such as the acceptance or giving of bribes, they were liable to criminal prosecution under the Penal Code. In addition, the National Public Service Officials Ethics Code strictly prohibited acts that could bring about suspicion and distrust among citizens, for example, by restricting public employees' contact with interested parties. Disciplinary action could be taken against officials who violated the Code. The Code had been amended several times, in line with prevailing trends, to maintain a high standard of ethics and integrity among public service officials.

95. Malaysia mentioned that its Forfeiture of Property Office was the agency responsible for conducting investigations into illicit funds used by drug syndicates to finance their operations. The Office worked closely with the Central Bank and applied to its officers the strict measures and regulations on corruption prevention foreseen by the Central Bank.

96. Myanmar referred to the fact that it was a State party to the Convention against Corruption and had established relevant norms in its anti-money-laundering law.

97. New Zealand reported that the financial investigation units within the New Zealand Police and the New Zealand Financial Intelligence Unit (which did not have an investigative function) were subject to the same high level of scrutiny as all police staff. In particular, Financial Intelligence Unit staff were vetted at a high level.

98. Pakistan referred to its anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering legislation. The Federal Government had adopted measures to address the threat posed by corruption within domestic law enforcement agencies and took action against personnel involved in any type of corruption, including malpractice during financial investigations, under the Civil Servants Act and the Efficiency and Discipline Rules.

99. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

100. Singapore indicated that it had strict rules and regulations in place that governed the conduct of all officers, including those handling financial investigations. For example, officers were expected to make asset declarations on an annual basis, and to comply with the standards of professional conduct prescribed in the Government's Instruction Manual. Those measures were subject to periodic reviews to ensure their effectiveness and relevance.

101. Sri Lanka stated that the anti-corruption measures implemented by the Government of Sri Lanka and the financial investigation unit had been strengthened.

Issue 4. Addressing the specific needs of women and girls with regard to the world drug problem

Recommendation (a)

Governments should develop and implement policies tailored to the specific needs of female drug users in order to increase their access to treatment for drug use disorders.

102. Georgia reported that its penitentiary system provided preventive and medical treatment to all accused or convicted persons with drug addiction that took into account the specific needs of female accused and/or convicted persons.

103. Japan indicated that there were no specialized correctional institutions for female offenders in Japan. Assistance for drug withdrawal was provided to inmates with drug use disorders without distinction based on sex.

104. Malaysia stated that it had already recognized the special needs of female drug users for decades. A dedicated treatment facility for female drug users had been set up, and a number of treatment facilities across the country were also equipped to accommodate female drug users. Women were involved in the formulation of policies, including those related to female drug users.

105. According to the reply of Myanmar, the country's new drug control policy took women and children into consideration with regard to drug use by promoting non-discriminatory access to justice, health care and social services in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

106. New Zealand referred to the Te Ara Oranga project, which was an integrated model of police and health-care activity designed to reduce the harm caused by methamphetamine use in communities of the Northland region. The project was aimed at making treatment resources more accessible to specific groups of users, including women, while at the same time focusing court resources on offenders involved in significant criminal activity. Furthermore, the Department of Corrections launched the Women's Strategy 2017–2021, and the police were involved in pilot projects in which women with specific needs in regard to drugs were identified. The youth justice age had been raised from 17 to 18 years of age, which was expected to bring young pregnant mothers with drug abuse issues before the youth justice system, thereby giving them the opportunity to avoid prison.

107. Pakistan reported that there were specific provisions in its drug-related legislation for the care of children and women. In that connection, Pakistan had created additional treatment and rehabilitation facilities. Among them was a female and juvenile model addiction treatment and rehabilitation centre that provided free treatment, boarding and lodging, following a treatment protocol approved by the Government that included medical therapy, psychological therapy, personal and family interaction, rehabilitation skills and post-treatment communication.

108. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

109. Singapore stated that a gender-responsive approach had been adopted in assessing and addressing the specific needs of female offenders when developing and implementing the policies of its Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

110. According to the reply of Sri Lanka, a separate treatment ward was available to female drug users, and outreach workers at the community level encouraged women to take advantage of it. A study on female drug users had been conducted to provide a basis for policymaking and the development of a treatment plan for female drug users.

Recommendation (b)

Governments are encouraged to ensure proportional sentencing and to develop and implement gender-sensitive alternatives to imprisonment, in particular for women who commit minor drug-related offences or women with parental and other caretaking responsibilities, in line with international instruments such as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

111. Georgia reported that no action had been taken in that regard.

112. Malaysia reported that offenders who were found guilty of using illicit drugs and being drug-dependent were sent to treatment programmes and not to prison. In that connection, gender-sensitive alternatives to imprisonment were available and prenatal and postnatal care was provided to pregnant drug users and young mothers, respectively.

113. Myanmar stated that its drug control policy promoted criminal justice sector responses to drug use and minor drug offences committed by women and children, using a human rights-based approach that included proportionate legal response mechanisms.

114. According to the reply of New Zealand, in 2016, 44 per cent of the female prison population had drug dependence disorders, versus 37 per cent of the male population. The above-mentioned Women's Strategy was aimed at addressing the response to that group. A new facility for females seeking help for drug dependence was opened. Furthermore, a working group had been set up to explore ways to reduce reoffending by girls. A significant portion of female inmates (75 per cent) had been raped or sexually abused, and drug use was often entwined in their lives as a coping mechanism, which needed to be taken into account in the development of responses.

115. Pakistan stated that the special courts took the needs of women into consideration at the time of bail and often released women on probation. Guidelines regarding the sentencing of women had been issued by the Lahore High Court that covered gender-sensitive issues in relation to the imprisonment of women.

116. The Russian Federation reported that the court could defer the enforcement of a sentence imposed on a pregnant woman or a woman with a child under the age of 14 until the child reached that age, with exceptions for certain serious or very serious offences. Pregnant women and women with children under three years of age were exempt from community service, punitive deduction of earnings, compulsory labour and short-term rigorous imprisonment.

117. Singapore stated that it had a spectrum of interventions in place to ensure that drug users were channelled to the appropriate type of treatment and rehabilitation.

118. According to the reply of Sri Lanka, welfare facilities and other relevant facilities were provided to women with parental responsibility in prison settings. In addition, counselling and education services and preschool services for children were provided by prisons or correctional centres.

Recommendation (c)

Governments, in their efforts to ensure multisectoral policy approaches to the drug problem, should increase the presence of women in law enforcement institutions and provide gender-sensitive training to law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals.

119. Georgia reported that a gender-sensitive approach had been integrated into all major educational programmes of the Penitentiary and Probation Training Centre. In that regard, in 2016, 1,757 employees had been trained, including the staff of two penitentiary establishments where accused women were placed. In 2017, 461 people had undergone training on topics related to gender sensitivity. The four-day annual international conference on the theme "Women in Policing" was held in Georgia and attended by female police officers from 13 countries.

120. According to the reply of Japan, law enforcement agencies were working to increase the presence of female staff members by setting recruitment targets for female staff. Moreover, the Ministry of Justice was implementing comprehensive measures to improve the operation of the prison that housed female inmates, to develop treatment programmes that focused on the specific needs of female inmates and to a create a better work environment. Gender-sensitive training was provided to law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals.

121. Malaysia reported that the number of female officers in enforcement institutions was considered sufficient. Numerous training programmes, including on the standard operating procedures in cases involving women, were provided to law enforcement officers to enhance their performance in operations targeting illicit drug activities.

122. Myanmar indicated that the national police had a gender-balanced policy and actively recruited new female police officers. International cooperation on capacity-building for female police officers had been established with a view to tackling gender-based crimes.

123. New Zealand reported that its police had a policy aimed at promoting the recruitment of women in law enforcement. The most recent group of recruits had the highest proportion of female members ever, nearly 54 per cent. All police officers underwent gender-sensitive training, in particular with regard to victims of sexual assault.

124. Pakistan stated that female officers formed an integral part of the Anti-Narcotics Force. Gender-sensitive issues were duly highlighted in all the courses delivered at the Anti-Narcotics Force Academy.

125. The Russian Federation reported that no measures had been taken in that regard.

126. Singapore reported that it had engaged international experts to train officers of the Drug Rehabilitation Centre and penal institutions on gender-responsive approaches, as well as on the use of specific assessments tailored to the risks and needs of female drug abusers.

127. Sri Lanka stated that gender-sensitive training was provided to law enforcement officers, health professionals, treatment providers and other relevant officials.

Recommendation (d)

Governments are encouraged to gather sex-disaggregated data in community and prison settings in order to better assess the specific needs of women and girls with regard to the drug problem, and to facilitate the development of evidence-based policies.

128. Georgia reported that risk and needs assessments were undertaken in all penitentiary establishments, including the one for women. On the basis of the results of the assessments, specific needs and safeguards relevant to female addicts in communities and prisons had been identified.

129. Japan stated that its prisons utilized data on sex, type of offence and other factors in implementing assistance for overcoming drug addiction. A number of factors, including gender, were examined to assess the effectiveness of the drug relapse prevention programmes in community settings.

130. According to the reply of Malaysia, the lead drug agency in Malaysia was responsible for collecting and analysing drug-related data from different drug-related agencies. The data collected could be disaggregated by sex and thus could inform an analysis of the needs of women and girls for treatment and other services, as well as support the development of evidence-based policies.

131. Myanmar reported that the Government collected disaggregated data in the prison department, drug treatment department and at the community level, but a full assessment with regard to the drug problem had not been conducted yet. Data on gender discrimination in prisons were still lacking.

132. New Zealand stated that many government departments routinely collected gender-related and other demographical data on persons charged with drug offences, persons imprisoned for drug offences and persons entering hospitals or treatment facilities for drug dependency issues. The knowledge obtained from that data helped to inform policies such as the Women's Strategy 2017–2021.

133. The Russian Federation stated that no measures had yet been taken in that regard.

134. Singapore reported that research had shown that women's pathways to substance abuse, compared to men's, often arose from dysfunctional relationships with their partners and spouses. Furthermore, it was important to address gender-specific needs relating to trauma, mental health and parenting. In that connection, the Drug Rehabilitation Centre had adopted a gender-responsive approach to assessing and addressing the specific needs of women offenders.

135. Sri Lanka referred to a study it had conducted on the patterns and prevalence of drug use among women and trends related to their drug use, stigmatization and involvement in illegal activities. A database was also maintained that included data on drug-related arrests and treatment.

III. Conclusions

136. Nearly all responding States reported that they had reviewed their existing drug control policies and frameworks and had consequently updated their drug control strategies or legislation to reflect the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. Most of them had implemented cooperation and support measures among the national forensic laboratories responsible for the profiling of illicit drugs, both at the domestic and international levels. All responding States reported having made use of the tools and services available from UNODC, with most frequent mention made of the PEN Online system, the services of Project Ion and the annual report questionnaire. All States had institutionalized mechanisms to exchange operational intelligence through bilateral cooperation, memorandums of understanding and regional cooperation platforms.

137. All States indicated that they had adopted a comprehensive, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach to the drug problem, and a number of countries reported on concrete measures taken to integrate prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and law enforcement into a comprehensive action plan. States also reported on mechanisms established to ensure a balanced distribution of resources, with a view to enabling the adequate implementation of their supply and demand reduction policies. Roughly half of the countries had introduced alternatives to conviction or punishment, such as treatment, education, rehabilitation and social reintegration. Those countries had either introduced full-fledged systems for alternatives to conviction and punishment or had taken closely related measures, and one country reported that it was testing such measures in a pilot project.

138. Nearly all States reported on their engagement in international, regional and subregional cooperation against money-laundering, mostly through the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the relevant mechanisms in the framework of ASEAN and the Egmont Group. Nearly all States considered their anti-money-laundering legislation to be in compliance with international standards and relevant conventions, and a number of States had recently amended their legislation to bring it in line with those standards. Approximately half of the States reported having taken measures to maintain the integrity of their financial investigation units by, inter alia, subjecting officers working in those units to disciplinary rules and procedures.

139. The majority of reporting States indicated that they had developed and implemented policies tailored to the specific needs of female drug users in order to increase their access to treatment for drug use disorders by, inter alia, making specific institutions and treatment plans available. More than half of the States implemented proportional sentencing and gender-sensitive alternatives to imprisonment, in particular for women who committed minor drug-related offences or women with parental and other caretaking responsibilities. Nearly all States provided gender-sensitive training to law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals, and more than half of them reported specific measures to increase the presence of women in law enforcement institutions. The majority of States reportedly gathered sex-disaggregated data in community and prison settings in order to better assess the specific needs of women and girls with regard to the drug problem.